

**APPROVED**

**CITY OF STARBUCK**

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TRUTH AND TAXATION MEETING**

**Monday, December 14, 2015**

The City of Starbuck held a public hearing on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:05 pm at the Starbuck Community Center located at 307 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Starbuck, MN. Present: Mayor Swenson; Councilmember: Gorder, Swensrud, Katzenmeyer, and Razink as well as City Clerk, Andrew Langholz; absent: none. Quorum is present.

Mayor Swenson stated that the City Council set a preliminary budget levy at 8% during the Special Meeting held on September 24, 2015. He then stated that this hearing is held to allow citizens to provide input and for the Council to field concerns. Mayor Swenson then opened the meeting up to the public for comment.

Several citizens addressed the Council stating that their taxes increased more than the proposed 8%. It was determined that in each of these cases the valuation of the properties had increased which also increase the taxable market value. The Council suggested these people set an appointment with the County Assessor, or go to the valuation hearing which is held in the Spring of 2016.

Resident, Glen Pederson voiced his concern about the proposed levy increase, stating that he has helped the City over the last 3-5 years and he doesn't believe the levy needed to be increased. He said that he understands that the City has a lot of debt between a storm water bond and the bond for the community center, but the City must be frugal and not buy new equipment. One suggestion Mr. Pederson had was to refinance our storm sewer bond to 20 years instead of 10, this would help lower the operating budget.

The Council discussed options for lowering the operating budget and answered questions from citizens. Mayor Swenson was concerned that by extending payments, the City would simply be passing the buck to future City Councils.

No further discussion was held.

Mayor Swenson closed the Truth & Taxation public hearing at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Langholz,

City Clerk